

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

MINUTES from: Monday, July 18, 2016 (prepared by Roger Martin)

COUNCIL MEMBERS: P = Present A = Absent

Craig Antonson – P	Carol Hakala – P	Wendy Markgren – P	Dave Wilson – P
Julie Bever – P	Tina Henningsen – P	Roger Martin – P	
Beth Brown – P	Kevin Jacobson – P	John Osterloth – P	
Ryan DeNucci – A	Jim Kusilek – P	Walfsy Pierre – P	

STAFF MEMBERS: Pastor Grant Aaseng – P Pastor Bob Berg – A Amy Brekke – A Dawn Paul – A

PREPARATION:

Devotions – Jim Kusilek

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Open Forum – None

Minutes from 6/20/16 meeting – Approved (Hakala/Markgren)

INFORMATION/ACTION:

Pastoral Ministry Task Force – The Task Force held their first meeting 6/29 to begin the process of identifying the parameters of a potential call for a new Associate Pastor to replace Pastor Bob Berg. The group elected to survey congregation members to assess perceived needs so a survey was both mailed and emailed to all members. Council further discussed plans for pastoral coverage after Pastor Bob's 7/31 retirement. Pastor Grant indicated he would like to reach out to area contacts for support (e.g. retired pastors) and any associated expenses would be considerably less than what we already have budgeted for our Associate Pastor. It was suggested that any such expense not be categorized in the ASSOCIATE PASTOR budget line item so it can be viewed independently of actual Associate Pastor expenses.

Pastor Bob Berg Farewell – An informal reception is planned for SUN 7/31 between services. Sue Hildebrandt will plan the event with help from available council members. Pastor Bob has asked that no gifts be given but instead provide an avenue for members to make a contribution to the Malawi Relief Fund. The Noisy Offering that day will be directed as such. Cards are encouraged. Pastor Grant has asked Pastor Bob if he'd like to preach that day and he has agreed to do so.

Broken Door Ministries Speaker – Pastor Grant reviewed plans for Brian Pusatari of Broken Door Ministries to conduct a seminar at Bethany on SAT 11/12. He will also preach at all 3 services. 11/13 is Commitment Sunday.

Invitation Event – Amy B. is planning to have one event per month that will serve as an opportunity for members to invite a guest to Bethany. Council members are asked to watch for planned activities on their respective committees that might be good for her future consideration. Committees are asked to avoid "doubling up" by planning other events at the same time as these events so we don't lose focus.

SHELBY NEXT – Initial data transfer and training continues. Some problems were encountered in the initial stages but efforts continue to make fixes as needed. Council continued to encourage the SN Marketing Task Force to create a positive message focusing on the many

benefits of this new system (e.g. Quick communication via text and email for service cancellation due to weather).

5 Year Maintenance Plan – the Property Committee has begun preparation of a proactive plan for property maintenance and repair. The process began with a facility walk-through. The top 3 areas of emphasis are roof, AC system and leaking windows in the lower level of the addition. By identifying these areas proactively, the congregation can plan and budget for associated expenses vs. always being in a “fix it when it breaks” mode. A complete plan may be available as soon as the August council meeting.

Healthy Initiative Proposal – a congregational survey yielded minimal response. The Task Force has proposed we invest available HI funds addressing:

1. Mental health awareness training
2. Hunger in our schools
3. Drug abuse in our community

This will be done initially by inviting experts in these fields to speak at church events such as CrossTalk between services. Minimal expenditure is anticipated initially.

MOTION (Jacobson/Markgren): Council authorizes the Task Force to use available funds for a period of 1 year with an evaluation at that time. APPROVED

Poverty Simulation Exercise – Julie Bever reviewed a planned event which is intended for area citizens to undergo an exercise which simulates what it is like to live at the poverty level. She will email details to council.

Worship Attendance/Budget Shortfall – continued discussions about recent fall-off year-over-year of worship attendance and giving vs. budget. Council will continue to monitor to determine if this is a long term issue or only short term and will plan future congregation communication as needed perhaps using new tools available in SHELBY NEXT.

REPORTS:

Pastor Grant – see written report

Pastor Bob – see written report

Finance – Motion (Wilson/Brown): Approve Financial Report/Statement as presented.

APPROVED

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Personnel (Tina) – Staff surveys re: their positions are currently underway

Property (Walfsty) – see written report

Mission Concerns (Craig) – see written report

Music & Worship (Dave) – see written report

Education (Julie) – see written report

Stewardship (Ryan) – see written report

Welcome (Wendy) – see written report

WELCA (Carol) – see written report

Altar Guild (Beth) – see written report

Trust Fund (Kevin) – NA

The Green Team (John) – see written report

Finance (Jim) – Audit Committee work has begun

Church Health Team (Carol) – Small Group kick off planned for Fall

NEXT MEETINGS:

Executive Committee: Monday 8/8/16 5:15p

Council Meeting: Monday 8/15/16 5:30p

ASSIGNMENTS:

August Devotions: Craig Antonson

August Collection/Lockup: Wendy Markgren/Craig Antonson

September Devotions: Roger Martin

September Collection/Lockup: Roger Martin/Ryan DeNucci